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SOURCE Kunnoja (Laborers).EDUCATION IN NORTH KOREA

During the days of Japanese administration, the number of elementary schools was 1.7 per township, but today there are an average of 4.1 schools in each township throughout entire North Korea, even in the remote farm villages and mountain areas. Educational progress achieved in 1947 and 1948 under the leadership of the People's Committee is illustrated below:

| <u>Year</u> | <u>No of Schools</u> | <u>No of Pupils</u> | <u>Percent of School-Age Children in School</u> |
|-------------|----------------------|---------------------|---|
| 1944 | 1,372 | 871,894 | 58 |
| 1946 | 2,482 | 1,182,707 | 77 |
| 1947 | 3,008 | 1,341,018 | 89 |
| 1948 | 3,245 | 1,378,536 | 94.3 |

Plans for the year 1949 call for an expansion of school facilities to accommodate 97 to 98 percent of the school-age children and by 1950, the last year of the people's two-year economic program, the ambitious educational program will be able to take care of every child of school age.

Now, what is the educational situation in the southern half of the Republic? According to the Seoul Shinmun, dated 14 June 1948, there were 68,271 school-age children in Seoul, but only 12,621 children were accommodated due to the lack of school facilities. It is wondered by many as to what became of the 360 million won the Government levied on the citizens of Seoul as a school-expansion tax, in addition to the monthly tuition fees and special donations the Government has solicited.

With regard to secondary education, there were about 0.5 high schools per county in North Korea prior to the liberation but today, there are an average of 8.7 high schools in each county. Secondary education facilities in North Korea are as follows:

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| <u>Year</u> | <u>No of High Schools</u> | <u>No of Students</u> | <u>Student Increase (in %)</u> |
|-------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1944 | 50 | 1,200 | 100 |
| 1946 | 217 | 1,413 | 413 |
| 1947 | 594 | 21,914 | 1,268 |
| 1948 | 772 | 275,627 | 1,619 |

Plans are now under consideration in North Korea to make secondary education a part of the compulsory education system, continuing from the elementary grades.

What is the secondary education situation in the southern half of the Republic today? In 1946, there were 385 high schools, but in 1947 that number was reduced to 376, and in 1948 the number was a little increased, bringing the total number of high schools in South Korea to 428.

In 1948, 174,042 boys and girls graduated from the elementary grades in South Korea, of which only 54,840 or 31.5 percent were admitted to high school, according to the Korean Economic Review, 1948. The following figures offer a picture of secondary education opportunities both in Pyongyang and Seoul:

| <u>City</u> | <u>Name of High School</u> | <u>No of Applicants</u> | <u>No Admitted</u> | <u>Percent Admitted</u> |
|-------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------|
| Seoul | Kyonggi Middle School | 1,382 | 200 | 14.4 |
| " | Yongseon Middle School | 2,095 | 200 | 9.5 |
| " | Kyonggi Girls High School | 650 | 200 | 30.7 |
| Pyongyang | Kwangsung High | 564 | 540 | 97.5 |
| " | Pyongyang High | 394 | 394 | 100 |
| " | Somun Girls High | 400 | 389 | 97.3 |

The data in this comparison is somewhat questionable, since there are more high schools in both cities than appeared in this table.

In contrast with the decaying educational program of the South, the educational institutions in the North are thriving, as illustrated by the progress made in 1948 over 1947, as shown below:

| <u>School</u> | <u>City (in %)</u> | <u>Farm Village (in %)</u> |
|------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------|
| People's school (elementary) | 107 | 108 |
| Junior high | 117 | 132 |
| Senior high | 112 | 236 |

North Korea's effort in education is not limited to elementary and secondary education alone. The need for specialized education on higher levels has been recognized and an equal emphasis has been placed upon higher education. The following figures show the progress made in the field of specialized education during the past 3 years:

| <u>School</u> | <u>No of Schools</u> | <u>No of Students</u> |
|-------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Industrial | 18 | 6,682 |
| Railroad | 1 | 874 |
| Telecommunication | 1 | 499 |
| Agricultural | 22 | 5,775 |
| Medical | 6 | 1,857 |
| Commerce | 4 | 1,293 |
| Arts | 3 | 376 |
| Normal | 13 | 10,415 |

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There was not even one university in North Korea at the time of our liberation, but today there are the Kim Il Sung University and 11 other colleges in North Korea, and also one Russian-Language College, as shown below:

| <u>Name</u> | <u>No of Colleges</u> | <u>No of Students</u> |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Kim Il Sung University | 1 | 2,416 |
| Engineering College | 2 | 2,382 |
| Agricultural College | 1 | 809 |
| Medical College | 3 | 1,414 |
| Normal College | 1 | 610 |
| Teachers College | 3 | 1,400 |
| Russian-Language College | <u>1</u> | <u>250</u> |
| Total | 12 | 8,981 |

It must be pointed out that the majority of the university and college students are sons and daughters of workers, and of these 1,195 are girl students. The members of the teaching staff and the student body of these universities and colleges are all active members of student democratic organizations of one kind or another. They work hand in hand in promoting political opinions among the people.

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